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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Army Auto Drivers' School at Trebechovice

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. An army school for training motor vehicle drivers is located in the military camp at Trebechovice, which is adjacent to the Schloss Barracks.
2. There is a great shortage of drivers in the Czechoslovakian Army, for which reason a number of drivers' schools were established in 1953 in different parts of the country, of which the school at Trebechovice is one. Auto mechanics, which the army also needs badly, are likewise trained here.
3. The commandant of the school is First Lt. Ruzicka, a first rate motor vehicle expert. The school comprises the commander and staff, two mechanic (Werkmeister) companies, and two driver companies.
4. Only skilled workmen of active age class are admitted to the school. They are trained with the new heavy army vehicles. The new troop carriers are equipped with light and heavy machine guns, so the drivers are trained in handling these weapons. All members ordinarily carry rifles. In mechanic companies men are made familiar with all types of vehicles used in the army. The training is done by groups in the following branches; vehicle maintenance, small repairs, medium repairs. The course lasts two months.
5. In the driver companies, training is centered especially on the new army model, Tatra-111 which is a 5-ton vehicle, produced by assembly line methods in Nesseldorf. The drivers learn to make only minor repairs. Their training also takes two months. All members of the school are given infantry training twice a week. Neither the target practice nor the political instruction is taken very seriously by the instructors themselves.
6. The school has 62 vehicles altogether, representing all the types used in the army. Only soldiers of Czech descent are sent here. The first group which arrived on 1 Aug 52 was from the 1930 and 1931 class.